NO. 330
DEC.
50¢
ALL NEW!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
A SPECIAL 25-PAGE SHOCKER!
THAT WOMAN'S DESTROYING YOU, BATMAN -- AND YOU WON'T ADMIT IT!
EITHER SHE GOES-- OR I DO!
THE DOOR IS THAT WAY, CHUM--
--GOODBYE!
THE BEGINNING OF THE END..?

BAT MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
I'M TRULY SORRY, ARCHIE, BUT GOVERNOR CORLEY WON'T COMMUTE YOUR SENTENCE.
YOU WILL DIE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR AS SCHEDULED-- TOMORROW AT DAWN!
IF I GOTTA DIE, THEN THE GUY WHO PUT ME HERE'S GOTTA DIE WITH ME!
SPREAD THE WORD, LAWYER-MAN -- ARCH SKYLER'S GOT TEN MILLION IN GOLD--
AN' I'LL GIVE IT ALL TO ANYONE WHO KILLS THE BATMAN BEFORE I WALK THAT FINAL MILE!
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS: ONE DAY, A FLEETING INSTANT IN THE LIFE OF A WORLD.
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS: THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THAT ARCH SKYLER SHALL EVER GET TO SEE...
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER
IRV NOVICK & VINCE COLLETTA ARTISTS
BEN ODA LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR
TARGET!

BATMAN ®, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 41, No. 330, December, 1980. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1980 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. / DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate $7.95. Outside U.S.A. $8.95.

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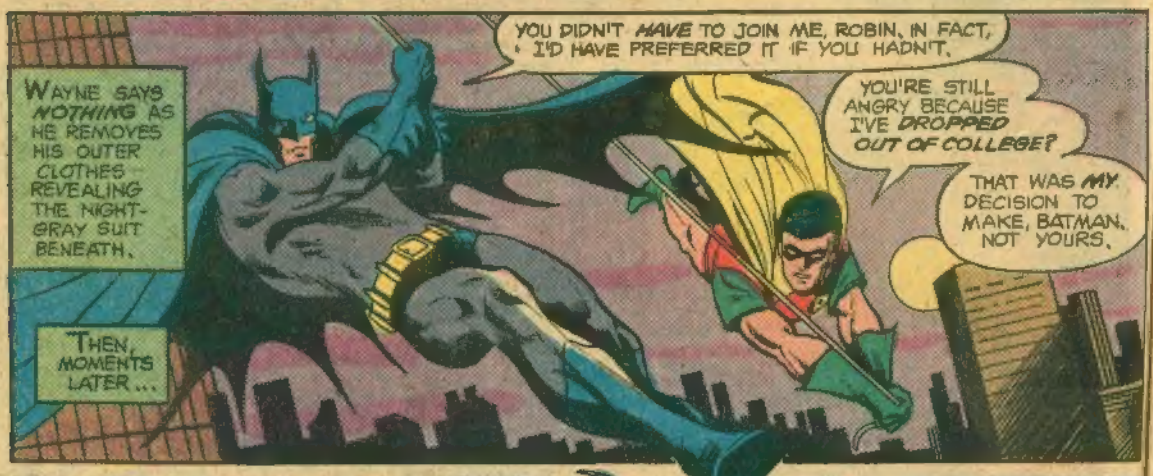
RIGHT THRU HIS CHEST, ANNIE-- JUS' LAK AH SAYD!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
BAM! AN' THE BATMAN'S DAID AS A LAME JACK-RABBIT!
BEEN TRAININ' FER YEARS TUH MEET THAT RANNIE FACE TUH FACE...
...EVER SINCE HE PUT AWAY PAPPY FER KILLIN' OFF THE COOPER CLAN!
BLASTED BRUTHERS SERVED TUH DIE, BUT YA'D THINK THUH BATMAN WOULD REALIZE THET? NAH! HE PUT AWAY PAPPY--
--AN' PAPPY DIED IN THE HOOSEGOW, AN' AH'VE BEEN WORKIN' EVER SINCE TUH EVEN UP THUH SCORE!
RIGHT NOW THERE AIN'T NO ONE WHO KIN SHOOT FASTER OR BETTER, OR WHO KIN THROW A KNIFE CLEANER--
--OR WHO KIN EVEN SCRAP WITH ME AN' COME OUT STILL TICKIN'!
ZAP!
ZUNK!
AIN'T NO ONE HERE, AIN'T NO ONE IN GOTHAM CITEE WHO'S BETTER'N THE COWBOY!
AH'M GONNA COME OUTTA THIS WITH THAT SKYLER GOLD, ANNIE--
AN' AH'M GONNA GET IT OVER BATMAN'S DEAD BODY!
KRAK!
2

GOTHAM CITY IS BEGINNING TO FEEL THE FALL FROST. SUMMER SHIRTS ARE COVERED WITH AUTUMN JACKETS. WORKERS WHO STROLLED TO THEIR JOBS EACH MORNING NOW RUSH BRISKLY THROUGH THE STREETS...
CAROLINE, HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPERS LUCIUS FOX LEFT FOR ME LAST NIGHT?
WAYNE FOUNDATION
NO, I HAVEN'T, MR. WAYNE, AREN'T THEY ON YOUR DESK?
LUCIUS USUALLY PUTS THEM THERE, BUT THEY AREN'T. SEE IF YOU CAN TRACK THEM DOWN, WILL YOU?
OF COURSE, SIR. RIGHT AWAY.
BRING RING
AS BRUCE WAYNE'S NEW SECRETARY ANSWERS THE PHONE, HER HAPPY EXPRESSION SOURS...
IS HE ALRIGHT? ARE YOU CERTAIN?
MR. WAYNE, HOLD ON, PLEASE-- IT'S GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL...
THEY HAVE LUCIUS THERE--HE WAS MUGGED LAST NIGHT...
...AND THEY SAY HE WAS SEVERELY BEATEN--
CANCEL ALL MY MEETINGS, CAROLINE-- AND TELL THAT DOCTOR I'M COMING RIGHT DOWN.
CAROLINE CROWN DOES AS SHE IS TOLD, THEN HANGS UP THE PHONE...
A MOMENT LATER, SHE LIFTS IT AGAIN, DIALS AN ALL-TOO FAMILIAR PHONE NUMBER, AND GIVES A BRIEF, ALMOST PECULIAR SMILE...
MR. FALSTAFF, THIS IS CAROLINE. I HAVE THOSE PAPERS YOU WANTED.
NO, DON'T WORRY, BRUCE WAYNE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING!
GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL...
...B--BRUCE... PLEASE... HELP TIMMY... HELP TIMMY...
DON'T TRY TO TALK, LUCIUS... EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW, MR. WAYNE.
HE'S VERY WEAK... THERE'S BEEN A HEAVY LOSS OF BLOOD.
HE SHOULD SLEEP NOW, AND THAT'S ALL.
TAKE CARE OF HIM, DOCTOR. I WANT HIM WELL.
SO DO I, MR. WAYNE. SO DO I.
3

THE TAXI DRIVE TO LUCIUS' APARTMENT IS STRAINED... AWKWARD NEWS IS EXCHANGED AS THEY TALK FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DICK LEFT HUDSON UNIVERSITY.
AND SOON...
LISTEN, DICK, WE CAN TALK LATER, RIGHT NOW...
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND HERE, BRUCE?
LUCIUS' IS A COMPULSIVE NOTE-WRITER! HE HARDLY DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT JOTTING IT DOWN SOMEWHERE--

AHH, HERE WE GO.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, DICK. I HAVE WORK TO DO AS THE BATMAN!
THEN, I'LL TAG ALONG AS ROBIN!
I THINK WE STILL HAVE A FEW THINGS TO DISCUSS!


WAYNE SAYS NOTHING AS HE REMOVES HIS OUTER CLOTHES REVEALING THE NIGHT-GRAY SUIT BENEATH.
THEN, MOMENTS LATER...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO JOIN ME, ROBIN, IN FACT, I'D HAVE PREFERRED IT IF YOU HADN'T.
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY BECAUSE I'VE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE?
THAT WAS MY DECISION TO MAKE, BATMAN. NOT YOURS.

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

HE IS A DARK SHADOW GLIDING GRIMLY THROUGH THE STREETS, A FRIGHTENING BLACK SILHOUETTE STALKING A FRIGHTENED PREY...
STAY STILL, BLAST YA! C-CAN'T GET A BEAD ON YA SWINGIN' LIKE THAT!
AN' I NEED THAT MONEY, MAN. GOTTA COLLECT THAT DOUGH!
NO WAY, BOZO--ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA COLLECT IS TEN YEARS IN THE PEN!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT SHOOTING AT DYNAMIC DUOS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN IN GOTHAM CITY?
WHY NOT MAKE IT EASY ON YOU, PAL-- JUST TELL ME WHO HIRED YOU AND WE'LL--
I AIN'T TALKIN' WITHOUT NO LAWYER. I KNOW MY RIGHTS!
YEAH, PUNK-- I GUESS YOU DO.
ROBIN--WATCH IT! HE'S NOT ALONE!
FRIEND OF YOURS, JERK?
BAM
BLEOW
HEY--NO! I--I WANT THAT MONEY, ME!
BWEE!
BLEOW
THEY'RE GUNNING THAT CAR RIGHT AT ROBIN... NO WAY FOR HIM TO BREAK FREE IN TIME.
WHICH MEANS, EVEN THROUGH THIS HAIL OF BULLETS--
--IT'S STILL UP TO ME!
KRASH!
5

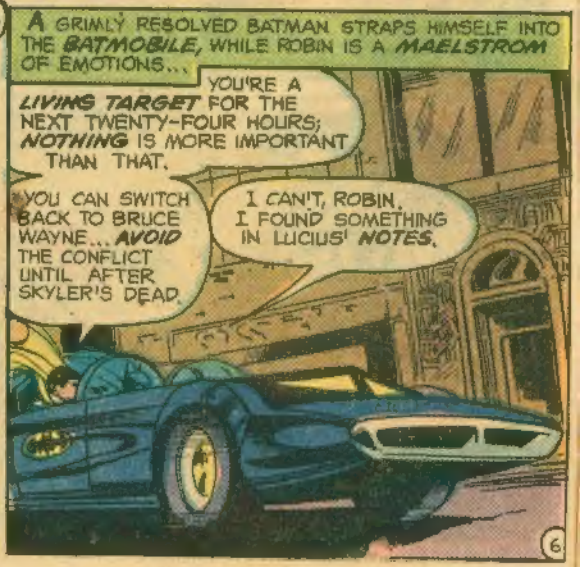
TWO ATTACKS IN TWO MINUTES, I DON'T LIKE THAT, FRIEND.
AND WHAT I DON'T LIKE, I TEND TO GET ROUGH WITH.
I SUGGEST YOU TALK BEFORE I DON'T LIKE YOU!
HEY, I'M NO DUMMY. 'SIDES, I'M OUTTA THE RUNNIN' FOR THE GOLD NOW ANYWAY. SO, YEAH-- SURE I'LL TALK.

MOMENTS AFTER...
YOU TAKE CARE OF THESE PUNKS, ROBIN. I'LL MEET YOU AT GOTHAM PRISON.
HOLD ON, BATMAN, THIS WON'T TAKE--
HE'S GONE! BLAST IT! MY QUITTING COLLEGE IS DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN US!

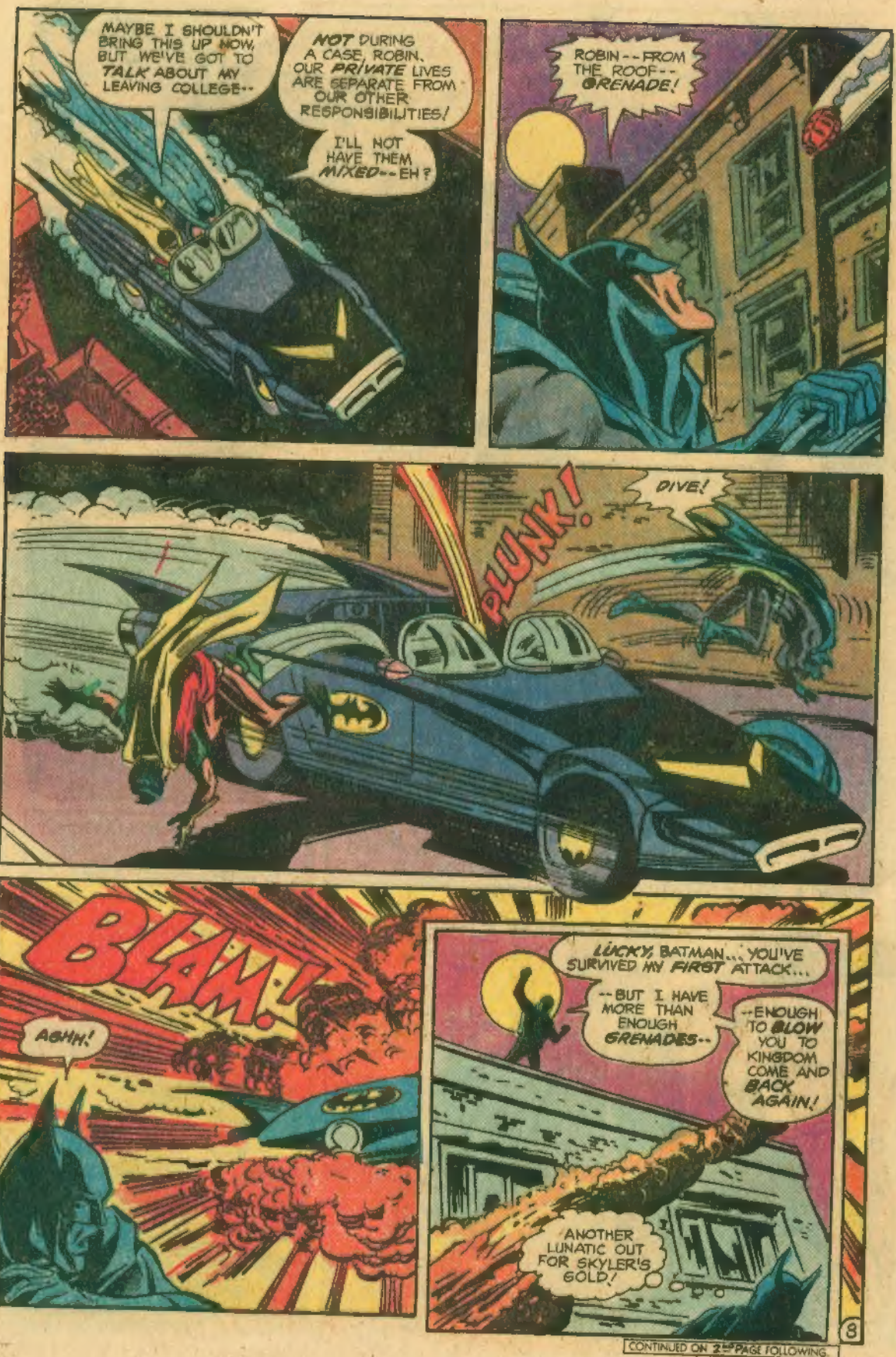
GOTHAM PRISON: A STONE AND SLAB MONOLITH DESIGNED TO HOUSE SOME OF THIS CITY'S MOST DANGEROUS FELONS...
WHATAYA GONNA DO ABOUT IT, MASKED MAN? ARREST ME? FACE IT, BATMAN-- YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR PINKY FINGER HOW LONG YOU GOT TO LIVE.
EVERY HITMAN IN GOTHAM IS GUNNIN' FOR YOU TODAY. EVEN YOUR LUCK WON'T HOLD AGAINST 'EM ALL.
GOTHAM PRISON

ONE'S GONNA KILL YOU BATMAN, SO WHEN I WALK THAT LAST MILE, I'M GONNA BE LAUGHIN' ALL THE WAY--
--KNOWIN' YOU GOT TO HELL JUST BEFORE ME!

YOU CRUMMY LITTLE WORM, I OUGHTTA...
FORGET HIM, ROBIN. WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO.
YOU HEAR ME, BATMAN? YOU'RE GONNA DIE BEFORE I CROAK. YOU'RE GONNA DIE, BATMAN! YOU'RE GONNA DIE!

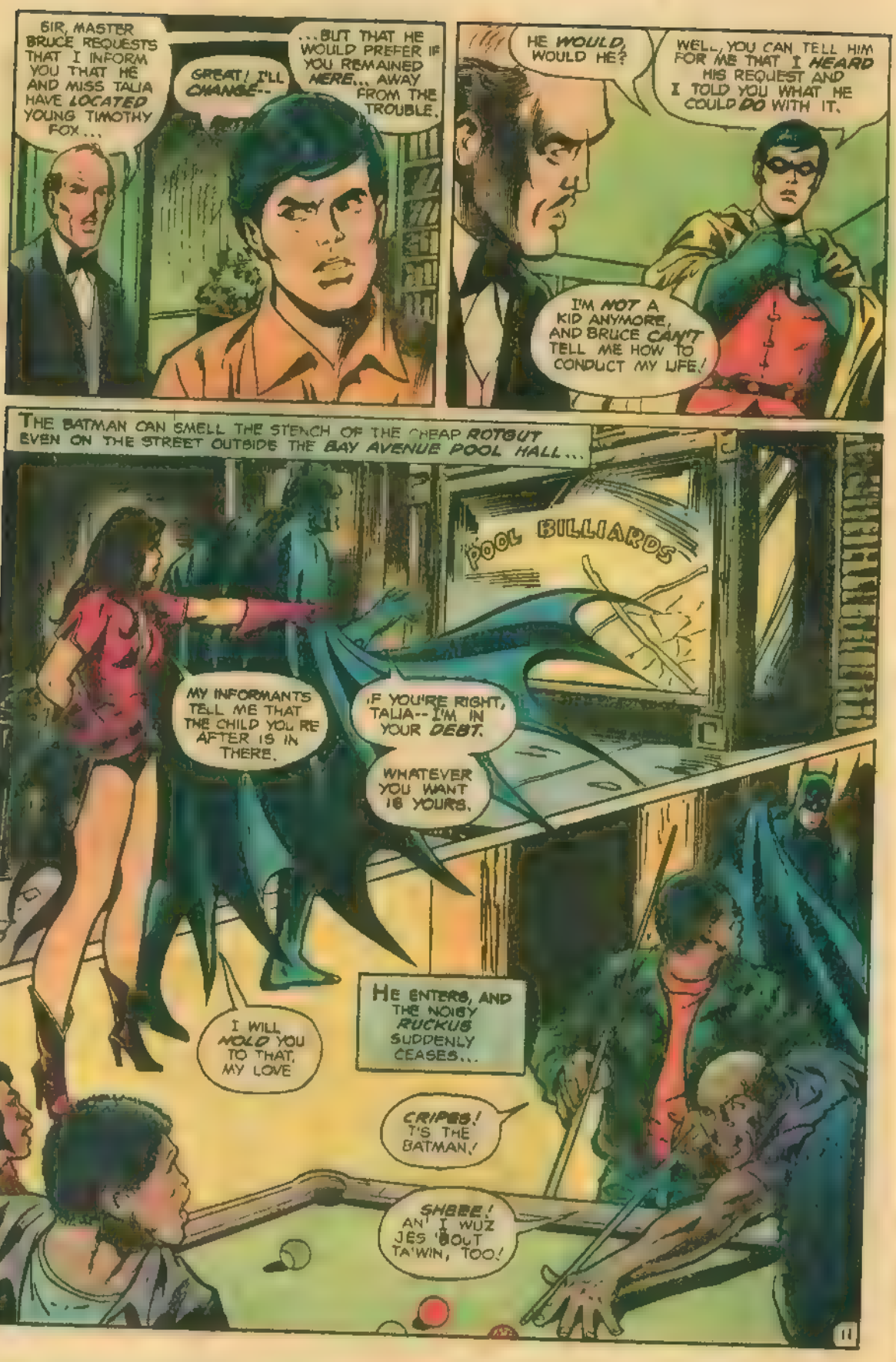

A GRIMLY RESOLVED BATMAN STRAPS HIMSELF INTO THE BATMOBILE, WHILE ROBIN IS A MAELSTROM OF EMOTIONS...
YOU'RE A LIVING TARGET FOR THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS; NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT.
YOU CAN SWITCH BACK TO BRUCE WAYNE... AVOID THE CONFLICT UNTIL AFTER SKYLER'S DEAD.
I CAN'T, ROBIN. I FOUND SOMETHING IN LUCIUS' NOTES.

"YOU REMEMBER MY TELLING YOU THERE WAS TROUBLE BETWEEN LUCIUS AND HIS SON, TIM. IT SEEMS TIM HAD JOINED SOME LOCAL YOUTH GANG, AND LUCIUS DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE..."
GOOD THING YOU GOT HERE, TIM. WE THOUGHT YOU PUNKED OUT ON US!
NAH... JUST HADDA DITCH MY OLD MAN. 'SIDES, HE DIDN'T CARE, HE WAS WORKIN' LATE ON WAYNE'S BOOKS!
EVERYTHIN' SET FOR TONIGHT, RON?
BETTER BELIEVE IT, KID. WE'LL SHOW YOUR OLD MAN WHO THE REAL BOSS IS. RIGHT?
"LUCIUS HURRIED HOME AND WAITED FOR TIM TO SHOW FOR DINNER..."
YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT TONIGHT, TIM. I DON'T LIKE YOUR SCURRILOUS FRIENDS...
...AND I DON'T WANT YOU PART OF WHATEVER THEY'RE PLANNING.
YOU FOLLOWED ME? MAN, THAT STINKS!
RON WAS RIGHT! YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT AN OREO COOKIE--
--AN' I GOT A HUNCH RON'S RIGHT ABOUT OTHER STUFF, TOO.
I'M MOVIN' OUT OF HERE, POPS -- RIGHT NOW!
WAIT, TIMMY-- WAIT!
TIMMY RAN OFF AND LUCIUS TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT WAS BEATEN UP FOR HIS EFFORTS.
BY TIMMY?
I HOPE NOT. BUT, IF LUCIUS IS RIGHT AND SOMETHING BIG IS PLANNED FOR TONIGHT, I CAN'T GO INTO HIDING.
AND IF TIMMY IS INVOLVED, THEN NOT EVEN THE BATMAN CAN SAVE HIM!
WHAT GETS INTO KIDS, ROBIN? LUCIUS LOVED TIM... GAVE HIM EVERYTHING, AND THIS IS HOW HE'S REPAID!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER TAG ALONG... FOR TIM'S SAKE!
7


MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BRING THIS UP NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO TALK ABOUT MY LEAVING COLLEGE--
NOT DURING A CASE, ROBIN. OUR PRIVATE LIVES ARE SEPARATE FROM OUR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES!
I'LL NOT HAVE THEM MIXED--EH?
ROBIN--FROM THE ROOF--GRENADE!
DIVE!
PLUNK!
BLAM!
AGHH!
LUCKY, BATMAN... YOU'VE SURVIVED MY FIRST ATTACK...
--BUT I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH GRENADES--
--ENOUGH TO BLOW YOU TO KINGDOM COME AND BACK AGAIN!
ANOTHER LUNATIC OUT FOR SKYLER'S GOLD!
8
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

ARE YOU READY TO DIE, BATMAN? ARE YOU--?
BLAMMO!
ARRRRGGHH!
AGGHHH!
WHUMP!
TALIA? YOU--? YOU KILLED HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU TOOK OFF AFTER YOUR FATHER DIED TRYING TO KILL BATMAN!
I HAVE RETURNED FROM MOURNING, AND DO NOT WORRY, THIS MAN IS NOT DEAD.
A SIMPLE ANESTHETIC WILL KEEP HIM ASLEEP AWHILE LONGER.
AS FOR YOU, MY LOVE--DO NOT MOVE...
WATCH IT, BATMAN--SHE COULD BE AFTER THE REWARD MONEY!
FOOLISH CHILD, MY FATHER LEFT ME MILLIONS.
I'VE LITTLE NEED FOR MORE MONEY.
AHHH, ALREADY THIS SPECIAL SALVE MY FATHER CREATED HEALS YOU. GOOD!
WHY ARE YOU HERE, TALIA?
HOLD IT -- SOMEONE'S WATCHING US.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
YES, GO, YOUNG ONE. YOU AREN'T NEEDED HERE...
...NOT ANY LONGER.
9

FUNNY. I WAS SURE I SAW TIM RUNNING THROUGH THIS ALLEY. MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN.
SEEING TALIA MUST HAVE RATTLED ME.
NEVER DID TRUST HER OR HER WEIRDO FATHER-- RA'S AL GHÛL--
--BUT BATMAN HAS ALWAYS LET HER COME BACK INTO HIS LIFE, AND I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ONLY FOR HER BEAUT-- HOLD IT!
THEY'RE GONE.. BOTH OF THEM ARE GONE!
MEANWHILE IN HIS PRISON CELL, ARCH SKYLER GRINS AS THE LATEST NEWS COMES OVER THE RADIO..
.. A FOURTH AND FIFTH ATTACK HAS BEEN REPORTED BUT, AS BEFORE, THE BATMAN HAS SURVIVED.
HE HASN'T GOT A PRAYER! BEFORE I DIE--I'LL SEE BATMAN DEAD!
GOTHAM CITY HOLDS ITS BREATH AND WONDERS IF ITS DARK NIGHT DETECTIVE CAN SURVIVE THE NIGHT.
IT'S A FRUSTRATED DICK GRAYSON WHO PACES THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF THE TOWERING WAYNE FOUNDATION...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, ALFRED-- THEY BOTH TOOK OFF, IGNORED ME, AS IF I WEREN'T EVEN THERE.
I KNEW BRUCE WAS AGAINST MY LEAVING COLLEGE, BUT THIS--?
PERHAPS THE TIME YOU TWO HAVE SPENT APART MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR MASTER BATMAN TO ACCEPT HAVING A PARTNER AGAIN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT OF HIM, ALFRED. THE BATMAN IS A PRO. HE WOULD NEVER TURN AWAY MY HELP.
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING DEEPER.
RUNNING
THE PHONE RINGS, AND ALFRED REACHES TO ANSWER ITS CLANGING SUMMONS...
THE RESIDENCE OF MASTER BRUCE WAYNE, CAN I BE OF-- AH, IT IS YOU, SIR.
YES... YES, I UNDERSTAND. I SHALL RELAY THE MESSAGE TO MASTER RICHARD AT ONCE, SIR.

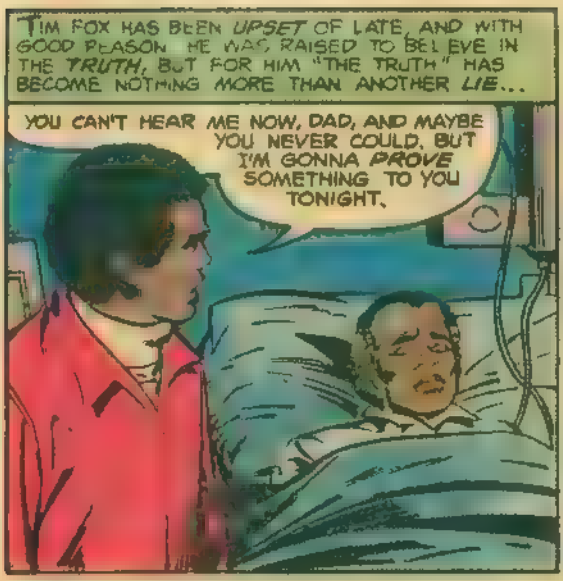

SIR, MASTER BRUCE REQUESTS THAT I INFORM YOU THAT HE AND MISS TALIA HAVE LOCATED YOUNG TIMOTHY FOX...
GREAT! I'LL CHANGE--
...BUT THAT HE WOULD PREFER IF YOU REMAINED HERE... AWAY FROM THE TROUBLE.
HE WOULD, WOULD HE?
WELL, YOU CAN TELL HIM FOR ME THAT I HEARD HIS REQUEST AND I TOLD YOU WHAT HE COULD DO WITH IT.
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE, AND BRUCE CAN'T TELL ME HOW TO CONDUCT MY LIFE!
THE BATMAN CAN SMELL THE STENCH OF THE CHEAP ROTGUT EVEN ON THE STREET OUTSIDE THE BAY AVENUE POOL HALL...
POOL BILLIARDS
MY INFORMANTS TELL ME THAT THE CHILD YOU'RE AFTER IS IN THERE.
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, TALIA--I'M IN YOUR DEBT.
WHATEVER YOU WANT IS YOURS.
I WILL HOLD YOU TO THAT, MY LOVE
HE ENTERS, AND THE NOISY RUCKUS SUDDENLY CEASES...
CRIPES! T'S THE BATMAN!
SHEEE! AN' I WUZ JES 'BOUT TA'WIN, TOO!
11

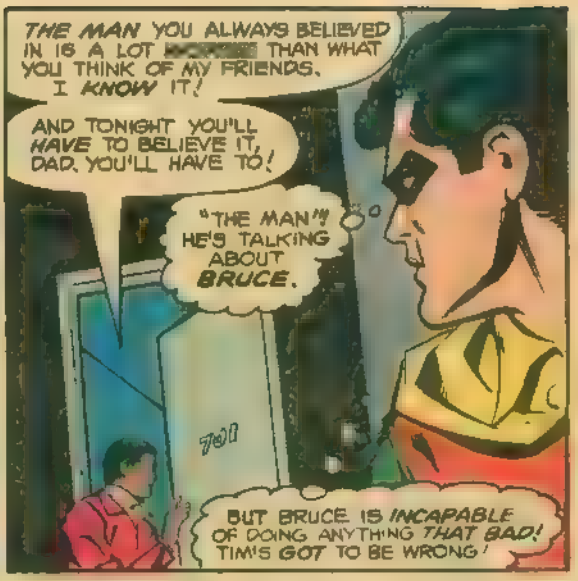
YOU--RONALD WATKINS! I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE PRETENDING YOU'RE AN ADULT, RON...
YOU'RE ACTUALLY ORGANIZING A JOB TONIGHT.
SO WHAT, MAN? AIN'T NOTHIN' YOU GONNA DO 'BOUT IT!
SCRAMBLE HIM, GUYS! LET 'IM TRY'N STOP ALLA US!
WHAM!
MY YOUNG FRIEND, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TRY...
YOU'RE ALL YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED--
BOOM
--YOU STILL THINK FIGHTING IS WAVING YOUR FISTS AROUND!
BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE YOU DON'T KNOW...
...THAT KNOWLEDGE COMES WITH TIME!
8
POOM
TROUBLE IS, KIDS YOUR AGE THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL! PROBLEM IS, YOU HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING!
THAT WAS JUST A WHUPPING, FRIENDS. DON'T GET INTO TROUBLE YOU CAN'T HANDLE.
GO HOME, GO BACK TO SCHOOL--LEARN SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GET IN OVER YOUR HEADS.
BECAUSE I PROMISE YOU, FRIENDS--NEXT TIME WE MEET, I WON'T KEEP ON THE KID GLOVES! UNDERSTAND?

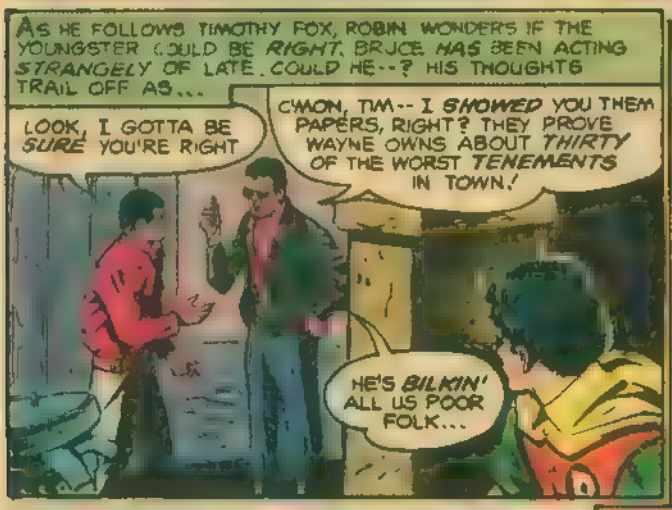
MAN, THAT JUST CUTS IT. ANOTHER WHITEY TELLIN' US WHAT TA DO.
WELL, DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU PUNKS-- BUT I'M IN THIS MORE'N EVER.!
GET OUTTA HERE NOW AN' GET READY FOR TONIGHT. I GOT A CALL TO MAKE.
RONALD WATKINS DIALS HIS NUMBER AND WAITS SIX RINGS BEFORE THE PHONE IS ANSWERED...
HEY, BOSS, THAT YOU? YEAH, LISSEN. THE BATMAN JUST SHOWED UP .. TRIED TO GIVE US A SPANKIN'.
YEAH, DON'T WORRY. THE GUYS ARE STILL WITH US -- 'SPECIALLY FOX!
YEAH, AFTER WE HIT WAYNE'S PLACE TONIGHT, WE'LL DUMP HIM. WE'LL DUMP 'IM GOOD AN' DEAD!
AH, CARLYLE, THINGS COULD NOT BE MORE SPLENDID. OUR YOUNG WATKINS CHAP HAS IT ALL SET.
BRUCE WAYNE SHOULD GET A GREAT BANG OUT OF OUR WORK TONIGHT, EH?
OUTSIDE...
WHUPPTAWHUPPTAWHUPPT
BLAST IT! ANOTHER MANIAC TRYING TO CUT ME DOWN--
--AND THIS ONE'S STUPID ENOUGH TO BUZZ ME RIGHT ON FIFTH AVENUE!
THANK GOODNESS THE PEDESTRIANS ALL RAN FOR COVER...
BRAKK!
...AND COVER SOUNDS JUST PERFECT.
THEY CAN'T FIRE AT SOMETHING THEY CAN'T SEE.
AND THEY CAN'T SEE ME WHILE I'M DANGLING DIRECTLY BELOW THEM!
CHARLIE? HE'S GONE? YOU THINK WE SHOT 'IM?
DON'T THINK SO, MAXIE... DON'T THINK WE GOT 'IM AT THE RIGHT ANGLE.

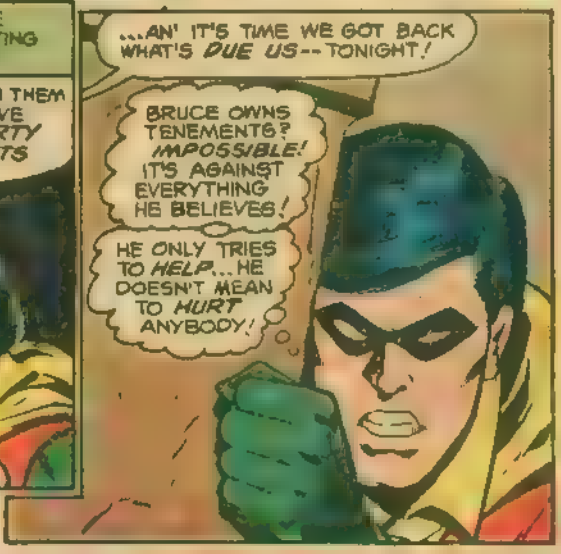
LEMME CUT AROUND FOR ANOTHER SWING THRU!
WE'LL CUP 'IM ON OUR SECOND PASS!
YEAH, JUST LIKE WE DID TO THAT RHINO HERD BACK IN AFRICA, RIGHT?
KEEP CONGRATULATING YOURSELVES--
--THAT SHOULD KEEP YOU BUSY ENOUGH NOT TO SEE MY NEXT MOVE.
--BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TURN A CLOSE SHAVE INTO AN ADVANTAGE!
WHAP!
THAT KICK-OFF GAVE ME JUST ENOUGH MOMENTUM TO MAKE A FULL-FLEDGED ARC!
MAXIE! MY GOD! LOOK! IT'S HIM!
HURRY! GET OUT YOUR GUN!
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU!
THE WAY YOU CREEPS ARE GOING, YOU JUST MIGHT KILL YOURSELVES!
SPLAMMO!

T'AIN'T BAD, HOMBRE. T'AIN'T BAD ATALL!
BETTER REFLEXES THAN AH THOUGHT!
ONLY AH RECKON AH GOT BETTER!
AN' AH AIN'T GONNA BE TUCKERED OUT BY THE TIME WE START OUR TUSSLIN'!
YOU THERE, COWBOY! DROP YOUR PIECE OR YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
HEARD YOU WERE COMING TO GOTHAM, COWBOY!
MEBBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT WE DON'T LIKE OUTSIDE COMPETITION!
GET OUT, COWBOY. SKYLER'S GOLD AIN'T LEAVING THIS TOWN!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T "BIG" MIKE FRAWLEY!
AH SEE YEW BOYS GOT ME FAIR'N' SQUARE...
...SO AH GUESS AH GOTTA CHEAT A MITE--
-- TUH MAKE CERTAIN AH STILL GET WHUT AH CAME HERE FER!
BAM
BAM!
KNOW SOMETHIN', FRAWLEY? YEW EASTERN DUDES MAY BE TOUGH...
...BUT AH'M DOWNRIGHT SNEAKY!
AYEDIOS, PARDNERS
POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
...I UNDERSTAND YOUR PROBLEMS, BUT I CAN'T HAVE GOTHAM TURNED INTO A TARGET RANGE!
FIVE INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SHOT. IT'S A MIRACLE NO ONE'S BEEN KILLED!
ALL BECAUSE THEY GOT CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE MEANT FOR ME.
ALL RIGHT, COMMISSIONER. I HAVE AN IDEA... IF YOU CAN PERSUADE THE CITY COUNCIL TO GO ALONG WITH ME.
THEY'LL GO ALONG, BATMAN. BELIEVE ME, THEY'LL GO ALONG!


TIM FOX HAS BEEN UPSET OF LATE, AND WITH GOOD REASON. HE WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH, BUT FOR HIM "THE TRUTH" HAS BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER LIE...
YOU CAN'T HEAR ME NOW, DAD, AND MAYBE YOU NEVER COULD, BUT I'M GONNA PROVE SOMETHING TO YOU TONIGHT.


THE MAN YOU ALWAYS BELIEVED IN IS A LOT [illegible] THAN WHAT YOU THINK OF MY FRIENDS. I KNOW IT!
AND TONIGHT YOU'LL HAVE TO BELIEVE IT, DAD. YOU'LL HAVE TO!
"THE MAN"? HE'S TALKING ABOUT BRUCE.
TOT
BUT BRUCE IS INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING THAT BAD! TIM'S GOT TO BE WRONG!


AS HE FOLLOWS TIMOTHY FOX, ROBIN WONDERS IF THE YOUNGSTER COULD BE RIGHT. BRUCE HAS BEEN ACTING STRANGELY OF LATE. COULD HE--? HIS THOUGHTS TRAIL OFF AS...
LOOK, I GOTTA BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT
C'MON, TIM-- I SHOWED YOU THEM PAPERS, RIGHT? THEY PROVE WAYNE OWNS ABOUT THIRTY OF THE WORST TENEMENTS IN TOWN.
HE'S BILKIN' ALL US POOR FOLK...


...AN' IT'S TIME WE GOT BACK WHAT'S DUE US-- TONIGHT!
BRUCE OWNS TENEMENTS? IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S AGAINST EVERYTHING HE BELIEVES!
HE ONLY TRIES TO HELP... HE DOESN'T MEAN TO HURT ANYBODY!

DEFENSIVE ANGER RISES IN ROBIN'S HEART JUST AS...
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! THIS IS THE BATMAN SPEAKING!
FOR THE NEXT TWO HOURS I WILL BE ON GROSVENOR'S ISLAND!

I WILL [illegible] WITHOUT WEAPONS, AND WITHOUT POLICE. IF YOU ARE SEEKING ME - YOU NOW KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME!
LEAVE GOTHAM CITY ALONE. COME AFTER ME IF YOU WISH!

GROSVENOR'S ISLAND, SITUATED IN THE MURKY GOTHAM BAY, HAS BEEN HOME FOR THE EIGHTH ARMORY SINCE 1939. DURING THE WAR, SOLDIERS WERE TRAINED THERE. TODAY, THE OLD WOODEN FORTRESS STILL STANDS AS A REMINDER OF WARS PAST, AND PROTECTION AGAINST WARS TO COME...
THEY'RE ALREADY HERE. I CAN FEEL IT. I KNOW IT.
I'VE PUT MYSELF IN DANGER COMING HERE...
BUT THE ONLY WAY I COULD PROTECT GOTHAM'S CITIZENS IS TO DRAW ALL MY ATTACKERS AWAY FROM THE CITY... EH?
BWEE?
BEEOW
IT'S BEGUN!
MOTORCYCLE TOUGHS! NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D BE INTERESTED IN--
OF COURSE! IT'S BLACKJACK! PROTECTION GANG IN THE EAST VILLAGE AREA!
THEY'RE DEADLY AS THEY COME--
-- USUALLY TERRORIZE BUSINESSMEN...
...BY ATTACKING THEM AT HOME--GOING AFTER THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGH, BATMAN! ONLY NO ONE'S TOUGHER THAN BLACKJACK!
ME AN' THE BOYS NEVER RAN INTO YOU BEFORE BUT WE'VE BEEN READY!
AN' WITH TEN MILLION IN GOLD AS THE PRIZE-- WE AIN'T PUTTIN' OFF THAT MEETING ANY LONGER!
BLACKJACK HIMSELF IS IN THE LEAD...
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.. THE OTHERS ARE DIRECTLY BEHIND!
THOOM!
COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER SET UP!
THAT KICK OFF NOT ONLY GETS ME AWAY FROM BLACKJACK AND HIS GOONS--
--BUT SHOULD KEEP THEM BUSY FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MINUTES AT LEAST!
WHRAM!
TALK ABOUT BARREL-ROLLING!
YOU GOT MY BOYS, BATMAN, BUT I AIN'T DOWN!
AN' I AIN'T RESTIN' TILL I GET THAT GOLD!
FORGET IT, BLACKJACK, THAT GOLD'S GONNA BE MINE!
I GOT THE BATMAN!
WRONG, PUNK--
--YOU HAD THE BATMAN!
GETTING AND KEEPING ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
HEEyyYyy!
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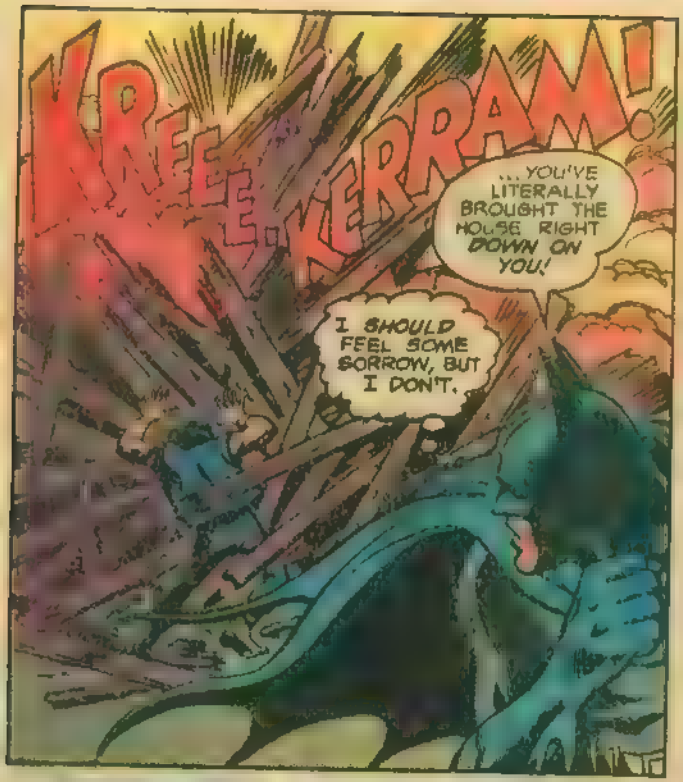
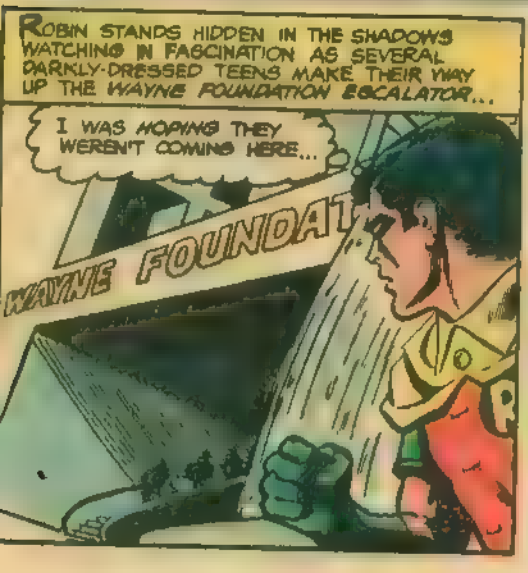
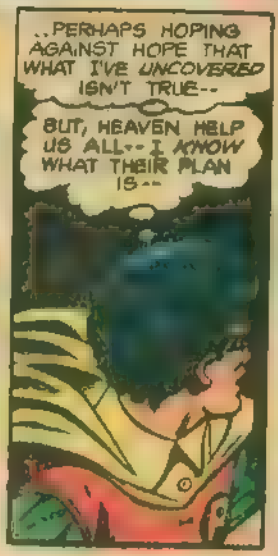
I MAY HAVE LET MYSELF IN FOR MORE THAN I CAN-- HOLD IT!
THAT SOUND? A BOWSTRING...
TWING!
INSTINCTIVELY HE PRESSES BACK TO THE WALL...
...AND, WITHOUT EVEN TAKING A MOMENT TO BREATHE, HIS HAND FALLS TO HIS UTILITY BELT..
...WHERE A BATARANG, SEEMINGLY MAGICALLY, APPEARS...
THIS ACTION HAS TAKEN LESS THAN A FIFTH OF A SECOND...
AND, BEFORE THAT SECOND TICKS AWAY...
...ANOTHER HOOD HAS FALLEN...
THE BATMAN REACHES FOR THE ARROW STUCK IN THE WALL BY HIS HEAD. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, THEN WHIRLS AT THE FAINT SOUND OF A WOODEN FLOORBEAM CREAKING...
YOU GOT LUCK, BATMAN. BUT LET'S SEE HOW MUCH LONGER IT LASTS--
--WITH AN AX SPLITTING YOU FROM SKULL TO TOE!
HUH? Y-YOU DODGED MY SWING. BUT HOW?
NOBODY'S THAT FAST!
I AM!
AND THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS!
SWAK!

STILL SEVERAL MORE HIDING OUT, WAITING FOR ME TO MAKE A MOVE SO THEY CAN ACT.
WELL, NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT BATMAN ISN'T COOPERATIVE!
BLACKJACK, YOU'VE JUST BEEN ELECTED TO HELP ME PUT ON A SHOW FOR OUR HIDDEN GALLERY!
WHAA--? BATMAN!
JUST THE DUDE I WAS LOOKIN' FOR!
THOOM!
YOU ALWAYS WANTED ME TO TURN STRAIGHT, DIDN'T YA?
WELL, ONCE I SCRAG YA, I WON'T NEED NO PENNY-ANTE PROTECTION RACKET.
I WON'T NEED TO DO NOTHIN' CEPT TRY N SPEND ALL 'A ARCH SKYLER'S GOLD!
SO, MEBBE YOU SHOULD MAKE IT SIMPLE FOR ME TO GO STRAIGHT, BATMAN.
JUST LAY THERE AND DIE!
CRRASH!
BLACKJACK, YOU'RE A FOOL!
THIS FORTRESS IS OLD... DECAYING--
--BY DESTROYING A SUPPORT BEAM...



HE LEAPS INTO THE BAT-BOAT AND GUNS ITS JET ENGINES ACROSS THE BRACKISH BAY. ON A CONSOLE RADAR SET HE PINPOINTS THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL HE HAS JUST RECEIVED...
HE'S HIGHTAILIN' IT OUTTA HERE AN AH'M THE ONLY DUDE WHO KNOWS IT.
WELL, THA'S FAIR, AH'M ALSO THE ONLY DUDE WHO'S GONNA GET THAT TEN MILLION IN GOLD!


ROBIN STANDS HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS WATCHING IN FASCINATION AS SEVERAL DARKLY-DRESSED TEENS MAKE THEIR WAY UP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION ESCALATOR...
I WAS HOPING THEY WEREN'T COMING HERE...
WAYNE FOUNDAT



CONTINUED IN 2ND PART FOLLOWING.

YOU SURE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY, RON?
'COURSE I'M SURE, KID. WE PLANT SOME DYNAMITE IN THIS JOINT AN' BLOW 'ER SKY-HIGH!
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SHOW THE MAN WE MEAN BUSINESS!
I--I DON'T KNOW... I JUST DON'T THINK THIS IS RIGHT.
I KNOW MR. WAYNE... HE'S NEVER SEEMED TO BE EVIL.
LOOK, RON, YOU GO AHEAD, DO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO, I'M CUTTING OUT.
YOU JERK, YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA LET YOU LEAVE? MAN, YOU WERE NEVER GOIN' ANYWHERE, BABY.
EXCEPT MAYBE STRAIGHT TO BLAZES WHEN THIS PLACE BLOWS!
HUH?
NO, ROBIN--DON'T MOVE.
BATMAN?
I PLACED A TRANSMITTER ON RON EARLIER TONIGHT. I HAD A HUNCH WHAT HE WAS UP TO.
NOW, STAND BACK, THIS IS MY SHOW!
BATMAN--NO!
BUT ROBIN'S WHISPERED PLEA COMES TOO LATE.
ALREADY THE BATMAN IS A BLUR OF MOTION--
--HIS BODY TWISTING IN AND AROUND THE GANG OF WOULD-BE DESTROYERS...
UNGHHH!
BATMAN?!?
DON'T TRY NOTHIN', BATMAN. I GOT THE KID!
WHAM!
SPLAMO!
HEY! WHAT IN--?

FRIEND, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING!
SPOOM!
ARE YOU WITH THESE PUNKS? YOU WANT TO SUFFER THE WAY THEY'RE GOING TO SUFFER--?
HOLD ON, BATMAN. LET HIM GO.
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THIS GANG. THEY'VE BEEN MANIPULATING TIM.
NOBODY DOES ANYTHING THEY DON'T WANT TO DO, ROBIN. REMEMBER THAT.
BULL! THERE CAN BE CIRCUMSTANCES! SOMETIMES YOU'RE CONFUSED, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO TO LOOK TO FOR HELP.
TIM NEEDS HELP. HE DOESN'T NEED YOU SLAMMING DOWN ON HIM.
NOW AIN'T THAT PURTY? THE BATMAN AN' ROBIN SQUABBLIN' LIKE CHILDREN!
AN'. JUST WHEN AH'M GONNA DO YEW BOTH IN!
I THOUGHT I LEFT ALL OF YOU ON THE ISLAND!
JUST THE LOSERS, BATS...
AN' THE COWBOY AIN'T NO LOSER!
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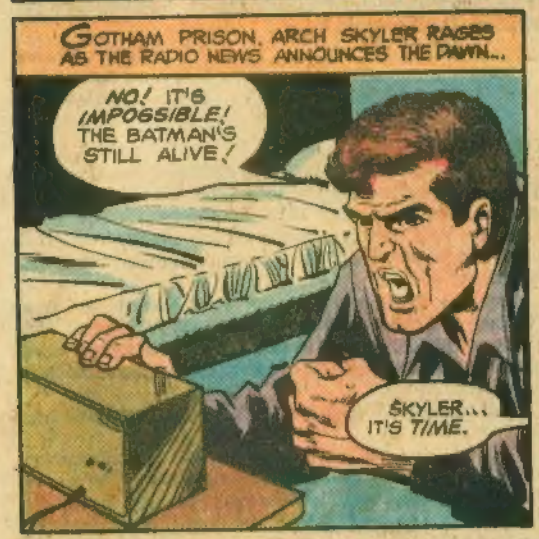
THAT ISN'T WHAT I'VE HEARD, COWBOY. RIGHT, ROBIN?
RIGHT, BATMAN!
I HEARD THE COWBOY COULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN.
HUH? Y-YOU'RE MOVIN' TOO FAST!
AND THAT'S FROM THE INSIDE!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
UNGHH!
SKRUNCH!
GOOD EXCUSE, COWBOY! REMEMBER TO TELL THAT TO THE OTHER GUYS IN THE STATE PEN WHEN THEY ASK HOW BATMAN CAUGHT YOU!
GOOD, LI'L FELLA... REAL GOOD. BUT THE COWBOY AIN'T DOWN YET.
WRONG.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU DOWN...
BUT YOU'RE ALSO OUT!
ZAP!

LOOK AT HIM, TIMMY. YOU COULD HAVE WOUND UP JUST *LIKE* HIM.
IS THIS THE KIND OF *SCUM* YOU'RE TRYING TO EMULATE? *IS IT?*
THAT'S ENOUGH, BATMAN...


GOTHAM PRISON. ARCH SKYLER RAGES AS THE RADIO NEWS ANNOUNCES THE DAWN...
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE BATMAN'S STILL ALIVE!
SKYLER... IT'S *TIME.*

HE WAS *SUPPOSED* TO DIE. I *PAID!* HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE...HE WAS SUPPOSED TO...
...EVERYONE WAS AFTER HIM...EVERYONE TRIED... WHY DIDN'T HE DIE?

C-CAN'T ANYONE TELL ME WHY HE DIDN'T DIE?
OH, GOD...WHY? OH, WHY?
OH... GOD... GOD...
THE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ARE OVER. THE *LAST* TWENTY-FOUR HOURS THAT ARCH SKYLER SHALL EVER GET TO SEE...

NEXT: THE ELECTROCUTIONER!